

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 19, 2017

Steven P. Johnston  
Director – Launch, Phantom Works  
The Boeing Company  
5301 Bolsa Ave  
Huntington Beach CA 92647

Dear Steven Johnston,

Congratulations on being awarded the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) XS-1 spaceplane contract. We are confident that your aerospace experience combined with support from key agencies will lead to successful completion of this program, which will improve our National Security and the commercial space sector.

We understand that you are in final deliberations for selecting a site to execute this contract. We strongly encourage you to consider developing a partnership with **White Sands Missile Range (WSMR)** and **Spaceport America (SPA)** to support this important venture for our Nation.

The SPA facility in New Mexico has a number of strategic advantages, which include:

- 1) Restricted airspace over WSMR/SPA, which is controlled by the Department of Defense (DOD), has 24/7 space access. This factor alone goes a long way towards achieving the strenuous ten flights in ten days stipulation in the contract. The restricted airspace coupled with an ideal flying environment (340+ days of clear skies) and high altitude at WSMR/SPA will minimize scheduling delays compared to any other location in the country.
- 2) The technical workforce at WSMR has a tremendous legacy of supporting complex DARPA Research Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) efforts for our military. Their positive attitude, range experience on developmental programs, along with SPA support will be a force multiplier that is uniquely suited to ensure your success.
- 3) WSMR recently conducted an Expected Casualties and Probability of Casualty (Ec/Pc) assessment that is well within the required Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) parameters to successfully launch the thirteenth and final demonstration flight of an orbital payload to Low Earth Orbit. Their experience with long range, off range, and hypersonic corridors is ideal for continued programs after Phantom Express development is complete. Their studies include multiple corridors for most orbital inclinations including polar.
- 4) WSMR has had a sixty plus year relationship with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), whom currently operates a 1,000 person team out of one of its testing facility. NASA's satellite installation develops and tests space technologies for propulsion systems. The division also aids in industrial firms RDT&E, giving organizations a cost efficient option for testing and developing space technologies.
- 5) Strategically our nation is in need of an inland Spaceport for multiple reasons. There are security perspectives as we move forward in time that will require an inland location. Spaceport America's location provides unique DOD connections for operationally responsive space initiatives and other critical missions important to our nation's space capabilities and ultimately our operational success.

From a resiliency perspective, we believe strongly that our nation needs to obtain strategic inland space launch capabilities and are confident that your organization would greatly benefit from this type of joint venture. We are committed to working with various federal agencies and the commercial sector to ensure that the billions of dollars that have been spent at WSMR, SPA, and the surrounding area are leveraged to support our National Security interests such as the XS-1 spaceplane and other commercial space enterprises.

We understand that there will be a strong commercial application for the Phantom Express. There are many advantages to operating at a site with ideal flying weather that is a mile above sea level, and provides unhindered airspace access for your projected commercial tempo. We sincerely hope you decide to conduct the Phantom Express development contract at SPA with the support of WSMR. We believe this is the best strategic decision for your long-term space success. We look forward to hearing back from you and to assist you in any way possible as you come to a final decision.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Steve Pearce  
United States Representative



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Representative



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
United States Representative